

State Aid Study Task Force Meeting September 6-7, 2006

Rick Melmer, Department of Education, called the meeting of the Task Force to order at 6:05 p.m.

The first presentation was by Lennie Symes from TIE. Lennie presented information on the Dakota Step exams for years 2003 – 2006. The data that was presented included scores for all students and specifically scores based on school size. (0-199, 200-599, 600 and above) Lennie looked specifically at scaled scores and growth of groups of students within the State of South Dakota. The information that was shared by Lennie is posted on the State Aid Study Task Force Web site.

Melmer shared a one-page handout regarding ACT scores for the 2006 year. The handout was placed on the State Aid Study Web site as well.

Melody Schopp, Department of Education, then presented information regarding the teacher education programs in the State of South Dakota. She reviewed the five public universities and their teacher ed programs along with other related information on teacher education at the postsecondary level.

Susan Woodmansey and Bobbi Leiferman, Department of Education, presented information on transportation costs. Two handouts were provided to the Task Force with one handout outlining the various transportation policies that exist within school districts. The second handout dealt with specific costs associated with transportation by school district.

Mark Wilson, Department of Education, presented information regarding the \$1 million Career and Technical Education grant that was provided through the State of South Dakota to the various school districts. This resulted from Senate Bill 168 approved during the 2006 legislative session.

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Jason Dilges, Bureau of Finance and Management, presented information regarding the status of the State Trust Funds. He reviewed three specific trust funds that relate to the education fund in general. The trust funds that were reviewed were:

- Education Enhancement Trust Fund
- Healthcare Trust Fund
- Dakota Cement Trust Fund

Jason reviewed how the trust funds generate interest and how that interest is used to support various programs in the State of South Dakota.

Jason went on to review three ballot initiatives. The first initiative that was reviewed involved initiated measure number 2 – the tax on cigarettes. The second ballot initiative was number 7 – relating to video lottery. The third initiative that was reviewed was number 8 – dealing with telecommunication.

Susan Woodmansey and Bobbi Leiferman reviewed the updated State Aid Study Web site. The Web site contained much more information relating to the various topics that had been reviewed by the Task Force.

Melody Schopp presented information on the work of the Virtual School Task Force as it relates to education funding in South Dakota. That report was followed by a report by Erica Tallman from Northern State University as she spoke about the e-learning program that has been in place at NSU.

The morning concluded with a brief discussion about the possibility of funding high schools based on the credits earned, rather than seat time. Adequate time did not exist for the discussion to go forward at any length.

Colleen Skinner, Department of Revenue and Regulation, provided information on the repeal of the 150% rule. She also discussed the option of market verses productivity as it relates to the sale of land in South Dakota.

Michael Kenyon, Department of Revenue and Regulation, presented information regarding Amendment D.

The Task Force then completed a survey that outlined the various topics by the Task Force. The survey results will be used by the Department of Education as the final plan is formed.

After some discussion, it was determined that the last meeting of the Task Force will be held on Wednesday, November 15, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Capital Lake Visitor Center in Pierre. At that time, the final plan for the State Aid Study Task Force will be presented and shared with the members.

Minutes submitted by Rick Melmer, Department of Education.